

## Message Text

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71-62  
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SP-02 PM-03 ACDA-10 OES-02

INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 L-01 H-01 EB-03

NEA-07 /068 W  
----- 065553

R 201451Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7756  
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 8149

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS:MNUC TW BE  
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REPROCESSING IN ROC

REF: STATE 202273

1. WE MADE APPROACH REQUESTED REFTTEL AUG 20 TO MISS SIMONE HARPELS, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SCIENTIFIC SERVICE.
2. SHE INFORMED US THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD IMMEDIATELY LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF ANY POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF COMPRIMO'S ANTWERP OFFICE WITH THE ROC. SHE HAS NO CURRENT INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT, BUT WILL LET US KNOW THE RESULTS OF HER RESEARCHES ASAP. SHE WILL ALSO EXAMINE WHAT LEGAL AUTHORITY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TO INTERVENE, IF NECESSARY, AND WILL INFORM US.
3. ACCORDING TO HERPALS, THE ROC APPROACHED THE BELGIAN FIRM BELCO NUCLEAIRE, TO TRY TO ACQUIRE SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND PLANT EQUIPMENT. BELGO

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NUCLEAIRE, WHICH HAS EXPERTISE, TECHNOLOGY AND

EQUIPMENT IN THIS FIELD, TURNED DOWN THE CHINESE APPROACH. BELGO NUCLEAIRE, WHICH HAS A CLOSE AND FORMAL LINKAGE WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, INFORMED HERPALS THAT COMPRIMO MIGHT NOT BE AS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TO SUCH COMMERCIAL REQUESTS.

4. HERPALS SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF EXPORTING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. A STUDY IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED UNDER FOREIGN MINISTRY AUSPICES, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRIES OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY IS A TWOFOLD ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE: (A) BELGIAN POLICY INTERESTS; AND (B) THE LEGITIMATE EXPORT INTERESTS OF BELGIAN FIRMS INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR FUELS, TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STUDY IS ALSO ADDRESSING THE DILEMMA OF HOW TO SHARE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITH NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY CAN OBTAIN THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WITHOUT RUNNING THE RISK THAT THEY WILL USE NUCLEAR PLANTS TO DEVELOP WEAPONS. THIS STUDY MAY BE COMPLETED BY MID-SEPTEMBER AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL THEN WELCOME THE CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE USG AND MAKE PROPOSALS.

5. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS ALSO AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AREAS (HERPALS SINGLED OUT KOREA), AND MENTIONED THAT IT HAD RECENTLY TURNED ASIDE A CANADIAN REQUEST FOR SOME UNSPECIFIED SORT OF JOINT CANADIAN-BELGIAN COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SOUTH KOREA. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH BELGIAN NUCLEAR FIRMS AND HAS BEEN HELD OFF.

6. WE WILL ADVISE AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. RENNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EXPORTS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**To:** STATE  
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